

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EB-11 IGA-02 AGR-20 L-03 SS-15

NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

COME-00 RSR-01 /144 W

----- 028873

R 101530 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8709

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, MO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PL 480 TITLE I PROGRAM FY 73

REF: AIDTO A-08

1. MINISTER OF FINANCE INVITED AMBASSADOR TO COME IN APRIL 9 TO DISCUSS PROPOSED PL 480 TITLE I PROGRAM. HE WISHED TO EXPRESS HIS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER HARDENED CONDITIONS AND IN PARTICULAR INCREASE IN INITIAL PAYMENT AND REDUCTION IN COMMODITIES OFFERED UNDER PROPOSED AGREEMENT. HE WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF WHEAT FROM 150,000 TONS REQUESTED TO 91,500 TONS AUTHORIZED IN PROPOSED AGREEMENT.

2. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A PROGRESSIVE HARDENING OF TERMS FOR PL 480 RECIPIENTS AND IN CASE OF MOROCCO THEY SHOULD NOT CAUSE ANY GREAT DIFFICULTY THIS YEAR IN VIEW IMPROVED MOROCCAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION. HE SAID PL 480 VERY MUCH DEPENDENT UPON AVAILABILITY OF COMMODITIES AND DEMAND FOR WHEAT THIS YEAR HAD BEEN SUCH THAT VERY LITTLE WAS AVAILABLE; THERE WERE MANY CLAIMANT COUNTRIES. MOROCCO HAD FURTHERMORE SUBMITTED ITS REQUEST COMPARATIVELY LATE IN US FISCAL YEAR AFTER OTHER COUNTRIES HAD ALREADY BEEN ALLOTTED BULK OF AVAILABLE SUPPLY. IT WAS BECAUSE

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OF GREAT US INTEREST IN MOROCCO THAT, IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS MUCH WHEAT HAD BEEN OFFERED.

3. MINISTER ASKED IF AMOUNT OF CREDIT AUTHORIZED FOR OIL IN PROPOSED AGREEMENT COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO WHEAT SHOULD IT BECOME AVAILABLE. MOROCCO WOULD THEN FOREGO US OIL. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT ADDITIONAL WHEAT WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE BUT SAID EMBASSY WOULD BE GLAD TO PASS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.

4. MINISTER AGREED THAT NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT FOR 91,500 TONS OF WHEAT COULD TAKE PLACE APRIL 10, AND MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED. HE SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENT TO THIS AGREEMENT SHOULD ADDITIONAL WHEAT BECOME AVAILABLE UNDER CREDIT AUTHORIZED FOR OIL IN PROPOSED AGREEMENT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF POSSIBILITY FOR SUCH AN AMENDMENT.
ROCKWELL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RABAT01604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730438/aaaahzfv.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: AIDTO A-08
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971215
Subject: PROPOSED PL 480 TITLE I PROGRAM FY 73
TAGS: EAID, MO
To: AID
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005